



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
COUNCIL CHAIR
DISTRICT II
TELEPHONE: (808) 547-7002
FAX: (808) 523-4220
EMAIL: dmdelacruz@co.honolulu.hi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2003

CITY COUNCIL INITIATES "PLAN"--PRIORITIES LONG-TERM AND NOW

The members of the Honolulu City Council today asked for public input on core services as the first step in what the Council has termed "PLAN"-Priorities Long-Term And Now.

The Council--frustrated by what some call a failure to plan ahead and by overspending on capital projects by the Harris Administration--is embarking on a collective effort to set priorities for the budget fiscal year '05, which begins next July, as well as for the years to come. Council Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz initiated the program in an effort to avoid future situations similar to those this Council has already faced, such as huge debt service arising from massive capital improvement projects that many now criticize.

The mission statement for PLAN is to create a 10-year plan to deliver essential city services in the most efficient economical manner, while ensuring that Honolulu is one of the greatest cities of the 21st century.

To do that, Councilmembers will be gathering information from the public as well as asking probing questions of city department heads and employees, to ascertain present and future needs as well as weaknesses and strengths in each department. The Council intends to gain consensus on priorities by the end of next year, in time to deliver them to the next Mayor. Jeremy Harris is legally bound to step down as Honolulu Mayor at the end of 2004.

(more)

City Council Initiates "PLAN"--Priorities Long-Term And Now

Page 2

The Council will be distributing questionnaires to constituents, as well as putting a survey on the City's website, to be answered online. That survey should be available online after December 15th.

For further information, please contact Kim Ribellia, senior aide to Council Chair Dela Cruz, at 547-7002 or Mary Schmidtke, senior aide to Councilmember Barbara Marshall, at 547-7003.

####